

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2304

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 11197

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER ASSASSINATION - ORLANDO BOSCH AND THE GOC

REF: SANTIAGO 9991

1. AS WITH THE REFTEL, THE EMBASSY SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR WATEVER USE IT MIGHT HAVE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF ORLANDO LETELIER'S ASSASSINATION. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS IT TO THE FBI.

2. A CHILEAN OFFICIAL WITH EXCELLENT SOURCES IN THE GOC AND ITS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TOLD AN EMBOFF NOV. 19. THAT ORLANDO BOSCH HAD ARRIVE IN CHILE ABOUT DEC. 15, 1974, AND LEFT ABOUT DEC. 15, 1975 FOR PANAMA, WHERE HE REMAINED FOR A SHORT TIME, AND THEN TRAVELED TO COSTA RICA, WHERE HE HAD PROBLEMS BECAUSE HE WAS CARRYING A FALSE CHILEAN PASSPORT. HE LEFT COSTA RICA IN MAY 1976 FOR VENEZUELA, WHERE HE APPLIED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. TH SOURCE SAID THAT BOSCH IS NOW "SINGING" TO VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES, APPARENTLY ON THE LETELIER ASSASSINATION.

3. THE SOURCE SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH FONIMINSTER CARVAJAL WHETHER ANY INFORMATION ON BOSCH SHOULC BE GIVEN TO THE EMBASSY, AND HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE MINISTRY NOT COMMENT TO US. THE SOURCE ADDED THAT HE HAD A CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE REGARDING LETELIER'S ASSASSINATION THAN ANYONE ELSE, AND
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PARTICULARLY US AUTHORITIES. BUT HE WOULD NOT RELEASE HIS INFORMATION

TO THE USG BECAUSE IT WOULD IMPLICATE CHILE IN THE ASSASSINATION
-- THAT IS, IT WOULD "MAKE CHILE LOOK BAD." HOWEVER, ASKED AT THE
END OF THE CONVERSATION WHETHER AN AGENCY OF THE GOC OR ANY
ORGANIZATION SPONSORED BY THE GOC WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING,
HE SAID NO.

4. COMMENT: THE SOURCE HAS BEEN A VERY RELIABLE PROVIDER OF INFOR-
MATION IN THE PAST. HE DOES NOT EXAGGERATE OR BUILD HIMSELF UP.
HE WARNED AGAINST RELEASING THE CONVERSATION TO ANYONE ELSE,
SINCE HE FEARED THE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD HE BE COMPROMISED. THE
EMBASSY OFFICER DOUBTS THAT HE COULD OBTAIN MORE SPECIFIC
INFORMATION.
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